Primary health centres

3026. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Primary Health Care Centres, the sub-Centres and the Community Health Centres proposed to be set up during the Seventh Five Year Plan period and how many Centres of each category have been opened by now;

(b) whether the targets would be achieved as per the plant;

(c) if not, what steps Government intend to take to achieve the target; and

(d) what measures Government propose to take for restructuring the rural health system to achieve the goal of providing "universal comprehensive health care service relevant to the actual needs of the community at affordable cost"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) According to reports received from State Governments and U.T. Administration against the proposed target of setting up of 12390 PHCs. 54883 Sub-Centres and 1553 Community Health Centres during the Seventh Five Year Plan 5830 PHCs. 25685 Sub-Centres and 678 CHCs have been opened till 30-9-88.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) Government have given special attention to the development of grassroot level health volunteers and have taken up intensive training of Traditional Birth Attendants to reach the benefits of Universal comprehensive health care services to the Community with the support of the formal structure of Sub-Centres, Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres.

Research in the field on human nutrition

3027. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the gap between the accumulation of knowledge in research laboratories in the field of human nutrition and the practical application of that knowledge in the field for the good of the people is greater than in any other field;

(b) whether it is a fact that our country entirely depends on a foreign commercial source for supply of vitamin 'A' concentrate which is required to prevent nutrtional blindness; and

(c) whether the Indian scientists have shown no enthusiasm in achieving self reliance in the manufacture of synthetic vitamin 'A' and that no technology mission has been set up for this purpose; if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Self reliance in the manufacture of Vitamin 'A' in the country has not yet been achieved. No technology mission for this purpose has been set up.

Dangers of junk food

3028. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article on dangers of 'Junk Food' in September-October, 1988 issue of 'Health for Millions', New Delhi; if so, the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken to safeguard consumer interests; and

(b) whether any action is proposed to be taken against Junk Food makers and promoters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) Government has seen the October, 1988 issue, of "Health for Millions". The Food (Health) Authorities of the States/Union Territories exercise quality control on all food articles including "junk food" under the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.